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Egyptians and Israelis Expected to Conclude Armistice in Week

By the Associated Press
RHODES, Feb. 11.—An informant close to the Israeli delegation here said last night an armistice between Egypt and Israel "is certain to be signed," probably within one week.

Talks between the two nations have been deadlocked for weeks, but the informant predicted a "positive step toward permanent peace" as soon as agreement is reached on the status of El Auja, on the Palestine-Egyptian border, 50 miles south of Gaza.

The town was captured by the Israelis last December. The Egyptians have asked that it be restored to them, but the Israelis have termed the Egyptian claim to the town "fantastic."

El Auja was one of the two main gates used by Egyptian troops during their movement into Palestine.

The informant said the Israeli delegation was not discussing jurisdiction over Beersheba, strategic crossroad city south of Jerusalem, with the Egyptians. He said Israel feels Beersheba should be discussed only in relation to Trans-Jordan.

Israel's Amnesty Approved Unanimously by Council

TEL AVIV, Feb. 11 (P).—The Israel government's amnesty law was unanimously approved last night by the Provisional State Council in its final session.

The council will end when the popularly elected constituent assembly meets Monday.

The amnesty law, as approved,

will free 167 persons jailed for all crimes except murder or treason for which the death penalty or life imprisonment is provided.

Informants here said this amnesty will include Nathan Friedman-Yellin and Matityahu Shmuelovitz, Stern Gang leaders, convicted of terrorism yesterday in Acre by an Israeli military court.

Earlier dispatches from Acre said the court had offered the convicted men their freedom if they would sign an agreement to quit underground activity, become loyal members of the state and announce these intentions publicly to their followers at home and abroad. But it also called for

them to remain under police supervision for two years—a condition they refused to accept.

Ben-Gurion Offered Law.
Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion introduced the law which will free his bitter enemies—the Sternists.

Before doing so he reviewed achievements of Israel under the provisional government. Mr. Ben-Gurion stated that all the country's enemies have been driven from its soil and Israel has become the mightiest military factor in the Middle East.

Further, Mr. Ben-Gurion disclosed that 145,000 Jews have entered Israel during the past six

months, that 52 new settlements were founded and many Arab cities converted into Jewish.

Mentioning the fact that 38 states have already recognized Israel, he referred to Britain's recognition saying:

"Even that bad angel (Bevin) was compelled to surrender to facts."

U. S. and Israel Expected To Name Envoys Soon

By the Associated Press
The United States and Israel are about ready to name the first ambassadors they will exchange, officials said today.

THE EVENING STAR, Washington, D. C. **A-23
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 1949

Diplomatic routine has held up the announcement since full American recognition was given the new state on January 31.

President Truman's choice for Ambassador has been submitted to Tel Aviv, officials said, and formal notification that he is acceptable was expected momentarily.

James G. McDonald of Bronxville, N. Y., present political representative in the Israeli capital, has figured most prominently in speculation over the post. Israel

has been expected to promote Elisha Epstein, its representative in Washington, to the rank of Ambassador.

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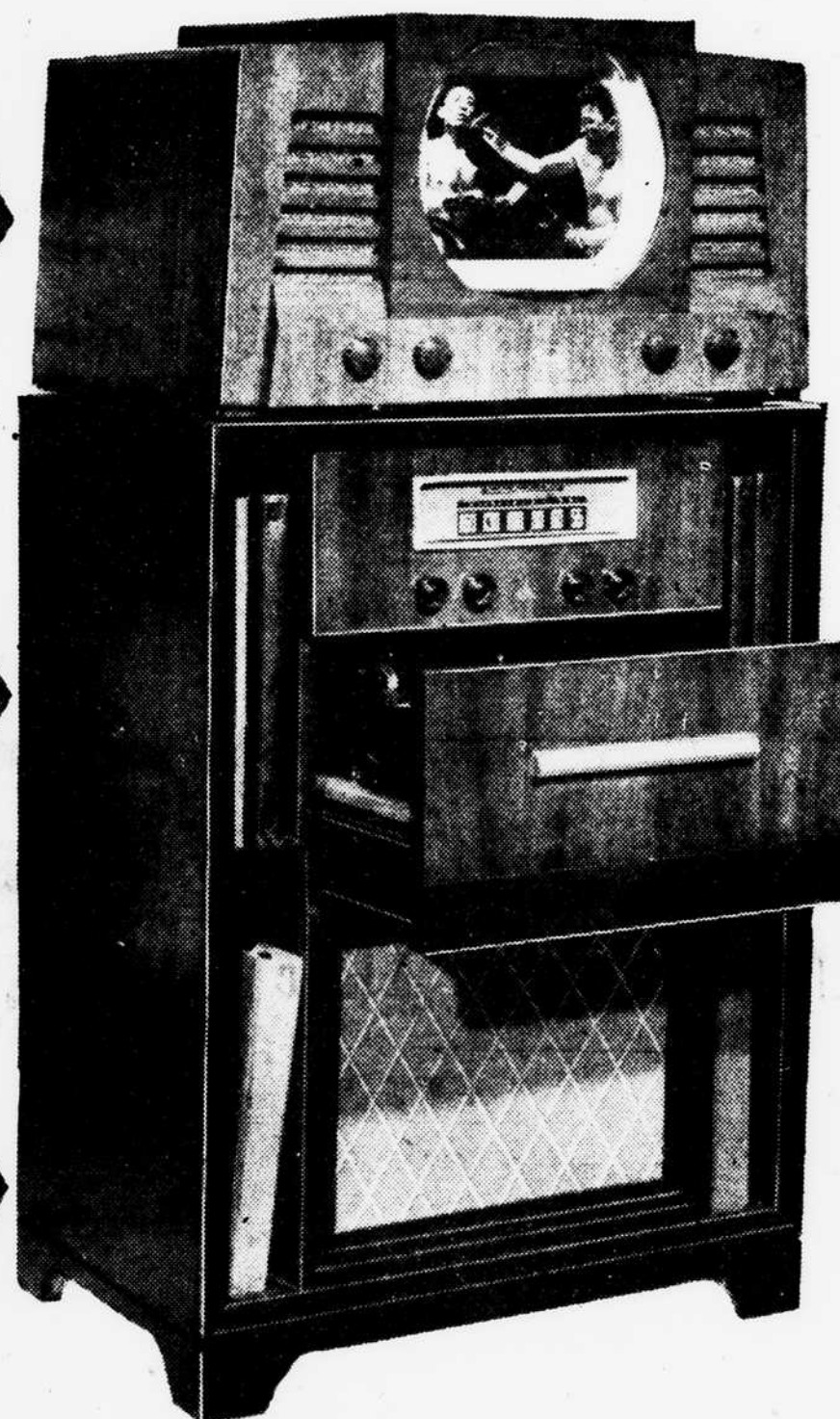
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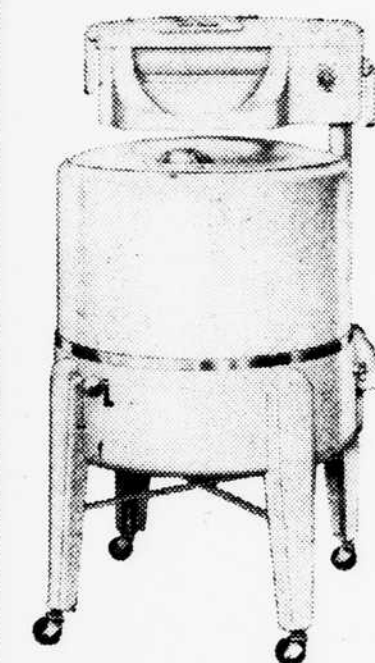
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